REMARKS

Applicants express appreciation for the Examiner's time in an interview with Applicants' representative, D'Ann Naylor Rifai, on March 18, 2004. Although no agreement was reached, Applicants believe that the amendments made herein are in harmony with the discussion during the interview. The amendments made herein address the Examiner's request to consider claims 1 and 19 in light of U. S. Patent No. 6,381,742 to Forbes et al. (hereinafter "Forbes").

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,381,742 to Forbes et al. (hereinafter "Forbes"). Amended claim 10 is presented below:

A computer system comprising a first computer, where the first computer comprises:
a plurality of plugin modules, including at least a *first plugin module comprised of an introspection interface*, an installation program component and a program behavior portion; and
a harness for evaluating the introspection interface of the first plugin module to determine if any resources are required for use of the program behavior portion of the first plugin module.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited portion of Forbes does not teach, *inter alia*, the introspection interface of the first plugin module, as required by claim 10. In Forbes, a software package manager running in the underlying operating system on the

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user's computer extracts a manifest file from a distribution unit file containing a software package to be installed and the manifest file. (See Forbes, column 7, lines 36-41.) The manifest file contains information about the software package, including file names and software dependencies. (See Forbes, column 6, lines 63-67 through column 7, lines 1-18.) No interface to the software package or to the distribution unit is described in the cited portion of Forbes. Claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-18 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 1 also requires "a preprocessing interface for providing introspective information about any requirements of the functional component ...," and claim 19 requires "a software module comprised of an interface and a program portion." Because no interface is taught by Forbes, claim 1, its dependent claims 2-9, claim 19, and its dependent claims 20-23 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 15 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apte, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,256,772 (hereinafter "Apte A"), in view of Barton, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,490,722. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A portion of amended independent claim 1 is given below:

> a functional component for providing a predetermined programming functionality;
> an installation component that manages installation of the functional component;

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The Office Action cites Fig. 2 items 208 and 210 as teaching the "functional component." Items 208 and 210 are Java beans, which are defined by Apte et al. as "simply a Java class with extra descriptive information." Apte et al., column 1, lines 52-54. Java beans are not typically considered to be installable components, and thus the requirement of "an installation component that manages installation of the functional component" is not taught by Apte A. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 through 9 are allowable for at least this reason.
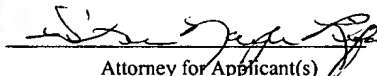
Claims 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apte, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,256,772, as applied to the base claim in view of Apte, U.S. Patent No. 6,298,353. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 outlined above. Claim 13 depends from claim 10 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10 outlined above.

Claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apte, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,256,772, as applied to the base claim in view of Goodisman, U.S. Patent No. 6,330,006. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 outlined above. Claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10 outlined above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

Respectfully submitted,

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